

*Surf A*

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a network, the method comprising the steps of:
  2. gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects configuration information about said system, and about each device of said plurality of devices;
  3. modifying metadata within said centralized repository to initiate configuration changes within said network; and
  4. propagating said configuration changes from said centralized repository to the devices on said network to cause said configuration changes to take place.
1. 2. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a network, the method comprising the steps of:
  2. gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects configuration information about said system, and about each device of said plurality of devices;
  3. in response to a failure of the system , recovering the centralized repository from a backup,
  4. using the metadata within the centralized repository to configure the system, and
  5. after the system is configured, recovering the system.

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- 1    3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of gathering and storing in a centralized
- 2                  repository metadata is performed by gathering and storing metadata in a
- 3                  centralized repository [metadata] that resides outside said system
- 1    4. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
- 2                  network, the method comprising the steps of:
- 3                  gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects
- 4                  configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
- 5                  plurality of devices;
- 6                  managing configuration of said system based upon the metadata within said
- 7                  centralized repository; and
- 8                  in response to a failure of the system,
- 9                  configuring the system based on the metadata restored in the centralized
- 10                 repository, and
- 11                 after the system is configured, recovering the system.
- 1    5. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
- 2                  network, the method comprising the steps of:
- 3                  gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects
- 4                  configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
- 5                  plurality of devices;
- 6                  replicating said system by performing the steps of,
- 7                  copying said metadata to a second centralized repository associated with a
- 8                  second system, and
- 9                  configuring said second system based on the metadata contained in said second
- 10                 centralized repository.
- 1    6. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
- 2                  network, the method comprising the steps of:
- 3                  gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects

4 configuration information about said system, and about each device of said  
5 plurality of devices; and  
6 managing configuration of at least two of an application layer, an operating  
7 systems layer, and a hardware layer of said system based upon the  
8 metadata within said centralized repository

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add H2